



City of Ridgecrest Police Department

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Ronald N. Strand, Chief of Police

Press Release

DATE OF INCIDENT: SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER OF 2012

TYPE OF INCIDENT: ABC MINOR DECOY, SHOULDER TAP OPERATIONS AND IMPACT INSPECTIONS.

During the months of September and October, the Ridgecrest Police Department conducted three operations in conjunction with the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC). The operations were funded by ABC through the Grant Assistance Program (GAP).

During the month of October, a Minor Decoy Operation was conducted and eight (8) businesses in Ridgecrest with off-sale alcohol licenses were visited. None of the clerks sold alcohol to the Decoy. During the operation, William Patrick Howard (DOB: 04/18/1979) was arrested by undercover Detectives for shoplifting from one of the businesses. Howard was later booked at the Kern County Jail for PC 460(b) - Commercial burglary.

- **MINOR DECOY** This program allows law enforcement agencies to use persons under 20 years of age as decoys for the purpose of purchasing alcoholic beverages from licensed premises. The use of underage decoys to check whether licensees are selling alcohol to minors can show a dramatic drop in the illegal activity. Any person who sells alcohol to the minor decoy is arrested (either cited or booked) for selling alcohol to a minor (a violation of Section 25658(a) Business and Professions Code). The subjects were arrested and released on citation pending criminal action with the District Attorney's Office.

During the months of September and October, two Shoulder Tap Operations were conducted and seven (7) businesses in Ridgecrest with off-sale alcohol licenses were visited. During the operations, four (4) persons at different locations were arrested for buying/furnishing alcohol to the minor decoy. The subjects were arrested and released on citation pending criminal action with the District Attorney's Office.

- **SHOULDER TAP** is a common method used by persons under age 21 to solicit a person to purchase and furnish them with alcoholic beverages. The Shoulder Tap Program is an enforcement program that ABC and local law enforcement agencies use to detect and deter shoulder tap activity. During the program, a minor decoy solicits adults outside ABC licensed stores to buy the minor alcohol. Any person seen furnishing alcohol to the minor decoy is arrested (either cited or booked) for furnishing alcohol to a minor (a violation of Section 25658(a) Business and Professions Code).

The Ridgecrest Police Department also conducted a series of IMPACT inspections at businesses that sell alcohol within and around the City of Ridgecrest. The purpose of the inspections is to make sure the businesses are properly operating within the rules that are set by ABC in order for them to have licenses to sell alcohol to the public.

Please feel free to contact Detective Lloyd regarding questions or concerns pertaining to underage drinking or minors being in possession of alcohol. Det. Lloyd can be contacted at 760-499-5112.

Prepared By: Det. N. Lloyd # 7854.

RONALD N. STRAND - Chief of Police
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